



THE HALYARD SPECIAL EDITION

Virginia Department of Education

October 19, 2005

Book Clubs in Virginia's Schools

Book Clubs are alive and well in Virginia's public school libraries. In response to a request for information, over 70 librarians from across the state sent in suggestions and strategies for creating, maintaining, and feeding the physical and literary hunger of both students and faculty.

There is no doubt that encouraging children to read is an important component of the school library. A tremendous body of research is available that documents that children become readers when they are exposed to good literature. And are encouraged to explore reading as an adventure not as a chore.

Organized commercial reading programs are only one of many ways to increase our student's reading habits. One of the best ways is to model reading and demonstrate the exciting opportunities that lie between the covers of a book. Every time a child enters the library there should be a new adventure in reading awaiting them.

The reading suggestions published in this newsletter represent only the tip of the iceberg in what is possible. Use your creativity, adapt one of these suggestions for your school, and watch your students test scores rise as reading is the real key to academic success.

My thanks to all of you who responded so quickly to my request for information.



SLJ's Average Book Prices 2004

Book Sales in the US

		2002	2003	2004
Barnes&Noble / B. Dalton \$4.45 billion	HARDCOVER (children's and YA titles) Average price (all titles) Preschool to grade 4 Grade 5 and up (fiction) Grade 5 and up (nonfiction)	\$18.78 \$16.04 \$16.83 \$21.49	\$19.18 \$17.45 \$16.77 \$22.99	\$19.31 \$17.51 \$16.84 \$23.25
Borders / Waldenbooks \$3.37 billion	PAPERBACK (children's and YA titles) Trade paperbacks (excluding mass market)			
Amazon Media (excludes electronics, services - books, includes books, music, DVDs) \$2.59 billion	HARDCOVER (adult titles) Fiction (excluding special editions, etc.) Nonfiction **Nonfiction	\$19.33 \$26.86 \$41.01 \$74.35	\$20.26* \$26.02* \$40.64* \$74.48*	\$18.88* \$24.81* \$41.07* \$73.64*
BN.com \$0.42 billion	PAPERBACK (adult titles, excluding mass market) Fiction ***Nonfiction	\$18.10 \$18.10 \$34.13	\$17.23* \$17.23* \$32.82*	\$14.95* \$14.95* \$27.38*
Total \$10.83 billion	*Preliminary prices. **Price includes single-volume reference titles. ***Prices include reference and related resources. Source: School Library Journal, Bowker's Books in Print.			

Reading Across Virginia

1. I collaborate with a 5th grade teacher, and once a month we meet with her higher level readers (those on a 7th/8th/9th grade level) and discuss a book they read. We began the year with the new Harry Potter, since they all read that over the summer and were very eager to discuss it. Now we are doing *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The discussion group is purely optional for the students. Some months the books don't interest certain students and they decide not to participate for that month. We meet in the library during their lunch time.

Allison Wadley
library media specialist
Beaverdam Elementary

2. I am sponsoring (for the 2nd year) a book club that focuses on the Virginia Young Reader books. Both last year and this year, my numbers vary with the month, between 5-10.

I have both girls and boys. Last year most read the same book each month, but no one was forced to read any particular book. This year they voted to read the selections they wanted and they talked them over with others who had read the same selection, or with me (since I had read them all.) If they read the required number for VAYR (4) they will vote on the best for the state, but we all will vote in-school.

3. We (teacher-librarians) plan to advertise the VAYR program to the school at large and encourage reading/voting, but the discussion forum is the book club. In addition to discussing the VAYR books, the members discuss other books they are reading and share recommendations.

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4. I have a book club with students on the post disposition unit in our school. We just started this year. We meet bi-monthly and will have our 3rd meeting this Thursday. We are reading Sharon Draper's Hazelwood High trilogy. I open each meeting by giving each student one question about the book to see if they actually read the book or not. This opens up a club discussion - our meetings usually last about 45 minutes. I also have snacks for the students.

5. I had a Lemony Snicket Series of Unfortunate Events party last year to promote the books, which was a one-time thing. This year I had a Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince discussion group with students and teachers who read the book this summer, which was only a one-time thing.

Christine Woods
Tabb Middle school
York County
Meredith Parker
Library Media Specialist
Norfolk Detention School



6. We have a monthly teachers' breakfast and book club. Everyone signs up for food and we meet in the library at 7:00am. Once during the year we go to a teacher's cabin for pizza and to watch a movie that goes with one of the books. At the last breakfast of the year we do a book talk on a "middle school" book.

7. I did Battle of the Books at Ruffner Middle School in Norfolk last year, 2004-'05.

8. Several middle schools(5, I think) in the Fred area have a cooperative book club with the public library. Check the website www.teenspoint.org/cafe_book Becky Purdy(540-372-1144) from the public library would be a contact if you actually wanted more information. I have about 100 kids total in four different groups that meet at their lunch times every other week.

Tracy Magin

9. Yes, I have a small book club that meets once a month during both of our lunch shifts. Each month we select a recently published book

(usually YA fiction) and discuss. We often do a potluck thing or order pizza since it's during lunch. We raise money by selling personalized bookmarks throughout the year. We then use this money to help offset the cost of purchasing individual copies of the books we read. We then donate a copy of the book to the library. We have a special sticker that indicates it's a book club selection. Hope this helps. Thanks.

10. I sponsor a book club at the high school level. The students choose the books to read and I facilitate the conversation but the students do most of the talking. They read a variety of titles from classics, to YA, and adult titles. We meet once a month--I provide food. No matter how tired I am, I float home on book club days because I'm constantly amazed at their insight and enthusiasm. It's a great way to get to know the students on a more personal level.

11. I promote the Virginia Reader's Choice program. I feature the books in a special display in the media center and do book talks on them with the fourth and fifth graders. With the other grades, we read the books together and then vote.

Leslie Roy
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12. We have a Chat 'N Chew program at my school open to any students in grades 2-5. Two parent volunteers coordinate it and I work with them to create a list of books for each grade level for monthly book discussions. Groups are divided into teams of 4-6 students in each grade level. We have between 4-7 groups per grade level. Each group has a parent leader. Students read their monthly grade level book and then meet in the library (with lunch) and their leaders to discuss the book. Last year we had 111 students and 33 volunteer leaders participate in our chat 'n chew program. It is wonderful to see how enthusiastic our students are about many of the books they discuss.

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13. I sponsor a monthly Science Fiction/Fantasy book club. We meet during each of the three lunch periods. Each student gets to share info about books they read the previous month. This format has been very popular.

Kathy Noble, Librarian
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14. We have a Battle of the Books team. We aren't heavy on the discussion but I would call it a club. We meet once-a-month and participate in extra-curricular activities (i.e., in-school sleep-overs and ice skating.)

Linda Becker
James Blair Middle School
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15. I enjoy my Battle of the Books group after we have finished reading and discussing all of the books and we get down to strategizing and competing amongst ourselves with the buzzers. We actually do buzzer thumb warmups and breathing/response time practice. It's all in good fun: we haven't won in three years but we get closer. I'm in charge of the Accelerated Reader program and offer monthly reward parties of the Make-it and Take-it nature (Art project party). A Communication Skills teacher and I are kicking ideas around for a faculty Book Swap/Book Reading Club. Time is the factor but the interest

21. At Spotsylvania Middle School I have 8th grade book groups. I meet during lunch with girls one day and boys another day. This is the first year I have done it. All the girls are reading the same book for our first time together and all the boys are reading the same book. I'm reading both books, of course. Then we will explore other possibilities, since we don't have the money to buy everyone a book each time.

22. We do a "Brown Bag & a Book" club-- students meet with the librarians in the library every other Friday during their lunchtime. We just eat our lunch and talk about the books we're currently reading. (We usually provide cookies or a brownie or candy.) We facilitate the discussion but the kids really are the heart of it. Kids get great ideas from each other and are scurrying around the library at the end of the lunch period looking for "that great book" that someone else just recommended! Since we have 9 lunch periods, it's a long days for us, but the kids love it. There are anywhere from 3-10 kids in each lunch group right now.

Jennifer Gratto Library Media Specialist
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is there. We've thought about a chat room format, too.

Hope this helps.....

Marie Roberson
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16. At Lake Taylor Middle School, we have a Battle of the Books team who competes against other NPS middle school teams. We read the Virginia Readers Choice books. Last year the LTMS team came second in the city. The kids had a great time.

Laurel Morgan
Library Media Specialist
Lake Taylor Middle School
Norfolk, VA

Go to our website (that the English teacher w/ the class set) created right after our meeting:
<http://hanoverbookclub.tripod.com>

18. I am on the substitute list for filling in on any literature circles in grades 3-5 in our school. Also, I am conducting and read aloud session with each grade level this year during their lunchtime. I read a novel in it's entirety during their lunch time in the LMC Monday-Thursday until we are finished. It took 3 weeks with the fifth grade and we read the middle school VYR, The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick.. I open it up to 18 students- sign up basis in each homeroom 9/room. We had a wonderful time discussing character development, vocabulary, author's purpose, the whole subject of deep water sea fishing and they can't wait to do it again. Now, I will be starting with 4th grade and we will be reading and discussing Cricket and the Cracker Box Kid by Alane Ferguson. I name it "Book a Lunch in the LMC" By the spring I will even be reading a novel to Kgt. like Dalh's Fantastic Mr. Fox .

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19. We have a book club that students participate in during an exploratory time in middle school with 6th - 8th graders. We read, snack and discuss various titles, genres of literature and do other reading activities together. The students are required to sign up ahead of time and they love it!

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20. I sponsor a book club at our school. Another teacher (Vickie Dean) and myself wrote a grant to purchase books for the book club. We are starting the book club this week. So far we have 13 groups ranging from 7 -14 students. They will meet weekly with their leader to discuss the week's reading. This is an informal session to discuss ideas and questions. Each group is reading a different book. The books are broken down by grade level and genre so that students who participate next year will not be reading the same books. We hope to have some type of reward party at the end of the year. If you need any more information, let me know.

Thanks
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23. We have a Virginia Readers' Choice Club for the students which meets once a month. Unfortunately, we only have two students currently participating. This is our second year and although we have quite a few interested students, we have had disappointing commitment to participate. On the other hand, this is the fifth year for our faculty YA Book Club and we have grown to seventeen members. We meet six times a year and each reads a selection of our personal choice and presents a "book talk" to the group. We find that the exposure to 96 or more different offerings increases our ability to discuss reading options with a variety of individual student readers, whether we be a librarian or a teacher.

Lynn-Marie Colizza
 Librarian
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24. Though they clubs have not started yet, I have informed the teachers that I will begin a book club for 3rd and 4th graders. One of the clubs will be in student/parent format. I participated in this type of club before wherein the students and parents both read the "Iron Giant". We met twice and had a culminating celebration with projects made by the children. This is my first year as LMS so I just have to choose a book and get it going.

Jennifer M. Rascoe
 Library Media Specialist
 Camp Allen E.S.
 Norfolk, VA

25. I have a high school book group that meets once a month and discusses a book we all have read. We have chosen many different genres, including nonfiction and biography. I feel that if schools offer this opportunity, there is always a segment of the student population that will come. Another activity I've tried at another school is called a Read-A-Thon, which is a fundraiser for the library. The students collect money for the time they spent reading, and we have food and door prizes. This is a great way to highlight reading, offer extra credit for reading, and get a bunch of people together to read after school. We also have Blackboard in our school district, and I have posted my first online book discussion. On July 16th, I opened it up for comments on Harry Potter. I have several hundred posts so far, and am excited about the possibilities.

Debbie Scott, Librarian
 Oakton High School
 Fairfax County, VA

26. I am the media specialist at Luray High School (8-12) in Page County and this is my third year of sponsoring book discussion groups. I was on the 2003 Jefferson Cup Committee and wished to promote some of the wonderful titles I have received as evaluation copies. The eight titles the first year were all selected from the Jefferson Cup books and were historical fiction. I had one student and one faculty discussion group with eight members in each. I provided hardcover copies of the titles for the group members and the books are now part of the regular collection. I purchased 15 copies the first year and lowered the number to 10 for the next two years. The faculty group is open to our teachers as well as the faculty from our feeder elementary schools—Luray Elementary and Springfield Elementary. This year I have two student groups as well as the faculty group. One teacher from Springfield has been a member for all three years as have five sophomores I who originally joined as eighth graders. We have continued to read historical fiction. I will be presenting a session at VEMA on Friday at 1:00 called Lunch and a Novel@The Bulldog Book Café which will give an overview of my discussion groups and will introduce the books which I have used with the groups. If you are at VEMA and not busy at 1:00, please join my session.

Kimberly Sampson

27. I have a book group with our 5th grade students, they come and eat lunch in the library and I read to them, I alternate it between the boy's book group and the girls. We also have a faculty book/discussion group. We meet one time a month, and alternate between fiction and non-fiction choices. Thanks! Kathy
 Hudson, Boyce Elem., Clarke Co.

28. This is my first year as a LMS, but I plan to work with students on the Battle of the Books.

Angela Gaskins,
 Media Specialist
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29. We are just starting two book clubs for fourth and fifth grade students. Only those students who scored above 500 on SOL exams are invited - as a reading enrichment program. We meet on Friday mornings for one hour. Girls from 9:30 - 10:30 and Boys from 10:30 to 11:30. We will be having student book talks and will also be reading common titles for literature circle discussions.

Kathleen Tomaino, LMS

Watkins Elementary in Newport News, VA

30. I sponsor a club here at Fuqua called the Readers and Surfers Club. We spend time talking about books the students are reading and exploring websites about different subjects encountered in our reading. We also invite our "local celebrity author" to speak to the group each year. Our club is restricted to students in grades 6-8 because there are so many other clubs they are not eligible for until they reach grade 9.

Frances Hazelwood

Fuqua School

31. Our individual book clubs begin with 2nd grade - 7th grade. We meet in Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., April, and May. Activities include genre studies, censorship issues, guest speakers, buddy reading, a trip to the movies and a minor league baseball game (6th / 7th graders), and crafts to correlate with the books read. In November we have a book hoedown with bobbing for apples, square dancing, and sharing stories.

32. I have just started three book clubs at Alexandria Country Day School:

3rd/4th Grade, 5th/6th Grade, and 7th/8th Grade. Each group has only had its introductory meeting, so I don't have much experience yet, but here is the plan:

Each group meets once a month. The students receive the book the previous month. I am using book fair profits to procure the books for each student. There is no fee to join.

Each student has a Book Club journal in which to record thoughts while reading. There are entries for things like:

Main Characters

What I liked about the book

What I didn't like about the book

Some Questions I had

Some words I liked or didn't understand

Some passages I liked

This book reminded me of...

I would like to read more about...

Also, each month, each student has a assignment (based on roles in Literary Circles) such as artist, word finder, discussion leader, connection maker, etc.

suspect that the book discussions will take less than half of our hour meeting time. I will plan a project for the remaining time. For example, our Chasing Vermeer group will view Vermeer paintings and play with pentaminoes. The Granny Torrelli Makes Soup group is making a cookbook of special memory foods.

I hope this helps.

Elizabeth Lockwood

Alexandria Country Day School

Alexandria, VA

33. I have a Jet Readers Club (we are the Corporate Landing Jets!). Our club evolved from a book discussion club to one that does activities to promote reading. We still discuss the books we have read within our group and vote on Virginia Young Readers, but we are in the process of beginning a charity book drive for hurricane victims, and we hold many contests that promote reading. Some of the items the kids want to do this year include:

Bookmark drawing contest (Favorite book)

A novel writing contest where the first chapter is entered via a contest and decided upon by a group (teachers and students), and the chapters travel around grade levels.

A fieldtrip to read to elementary students. A pumpkin weight-guessing contest with prizes (just to publicize our club). I let the kids decide the activities and handle all of the promotion and work. We only meet for an hour a week, but we seem to fit everything in OK.

Hope this helps,

Kathy Wheeler

34. At Broad Run High School, Loudoun County, we run a VA Choice Readers book club. We've actually just started it this year. Over sixty students have signed up, and we will only have time to review five books on their list, but we'll get it going earlier next year. Students sign up by filling out a form given out during a presentation made by the librarians in their English classes. The whole student body is invited. We purchase paperbacks of the titles they select to read- by vote. The books are handed out and students come to the library a month later during their lunch shift to discuss the book. That is the only time they are allowed to eat in the library. Librarians provide an extra goodie or two to supplement lunches. The discussion is not at all academic- more like "why did you like/ dislike the book," "did this character seem real." Teachers are invited to join us- only they can't vote in the spring and we don't give them the books, but try to find copies through other schools or public libraries for them to borrow. Students do keep the books and the next title is handed out at the lunch meeting if they read the previous one and participated in the discussion or at least let us know why

they couldn't attend. The titles that are not read by the book club together are made available to book club students (we get 5 or 6 copies) to borrow and read if they choose- so no one has to lose out on their choice! Those books will be raffled off at the end of the year to book club participants. We patterned this on a club run by our feeder middle school, Farmwell Station.

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35. At Farmwell Station, we have a student book group that reads the Virginia's Choice Award nominees. We meet monthly both during the lunch blocks as well as after school to try to accommodate student schedules. Our principal purchases the paperback copies of available titles for students to keep in hopes of building their own personal libraries.

We also have a faculty as readers group that meets monthly at individual's homes. We read whatever the host suggests (that's how we pick our titles). Please let me know if I can provide additional information for you.

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36. The reading specialist and I do book lunches with K-6 on the Virginia Readers' Choice books.

Diana McIntyre
Gunston ES
Fairfax County Public Schools

37. Here at Battlefield High School, we have started lunchtime book discussions of the Virginia Readers' Choice (formerly Virginia Young Readers) books. We set a schedule for discussions last year and published a brochure with a description of the program, descriptions of the titles, and the dates for lunch discussions. Our discussions are held during every lunch shift and are open to any student who has read the book. We even bring in "treats." We also have online book discussions for those VRC titles on our SchoolFusion page.

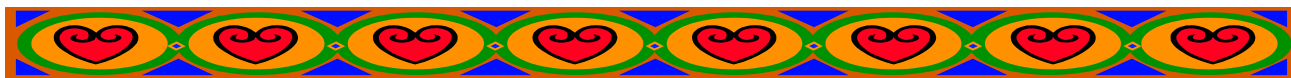
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38. I am a media specialist at Great Bridge Middle School in Chesapeake. I have a book club called the Library Lunch Bunch that meets once a month in the media center. Each grade level meets during their lunch period. The students bring their lunch and we eat lunch together and discuss the book that our club read that month. This year there is total of 46 students participating in the club.

39. At Floyd County High School we have two different book clubs/groups. These were created about 4 years ago in cooperation with the Gifted and Talented Coordinator in the County. (But they are NOT restricted to students in that program.) We are an 8th-12th-grade high school so we created an 8th grade book group and a 9th-12th-grade book club. The 8th grade book group meets 4 times during the year. We select two titles, the students chose one, and we supply a copy of the book. The students are required to answer questions, which are given out at the same time as the book, and we sit around and eat junk food and talk about the title. (We are divided into two groups, I lead one and the Gifted Coordinator the other.) In addition, at FCHS we have Club day 5 or 6 times a year when clubs meet. The Book Club meets in the middle of the day and it follows a similar pattern above. We pre-select two books, and they chose one. They get a copy of the book (to be returned) and questions. Both of these book groups dovetail with FCHS's Honors Reading Program which I also coordinate. Any books read in book group can be counted toward Honors Reading -- which is 6 books during the school year.

The 8th grade group waxes and wanes depending on the class but the 9th-12th group is growing. This is the best year we have had since it began. We had 50 students participate in three different discussions. (Two groups on Curious Incident of the Dog in



40. I have an hour-long daily Literature Circle. I have a 5 to 6 kid group, which I keep for the entire month. They're the 5 or 6 best kids in the teacher's class. This way I have the 6 best from September to May in each 5th, 4th, and 3rd grade classes (3 classes each grade). With 5th, I'm doing *The Lottery Rose* by Irene Hunt along with *Summer of the Swans* by Betsy Byars. We'll be comparing and contrasting characters, setting, how they're related, etc. My current class and I are doing a bulletin board for the hallway based on *The Lottery Rose* for November is Reading Month. The focus is on higher-level questions - which the kids make up. We call it Stump the Question. The title makes no sense, but it works for us.

With 4th, we'll be doing *The Ghost Cadet* by Elaine Alphin along with Civil War history reference and Virginia geography and higher level questions.

And with 3rd, In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord. With this we encompass the storyline with Jackie Robinson and his entrance into baseball as well as a few China and New York City map skill lessons and higher level questions. Hope this helps. I'd be glad to send pictures of the bulletin board when we finish.

Judith Williams, Library Media Specialist

Hilton Elementary School

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41. I have started an Award Winners Book Club with 5th graders this year. They read Newbery winners or Virginia Reader's Choice books and give a book talk when they come to the library. When they have finished 10 they earn a free book from the book fair or from a local bookstore.

Tammy Perry

Library Media Specialist

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42. The Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.) is a reading/discussion/book club where students read some of the latest books nominated for the American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults award and make recommendations to school and public librarians for book purchases. This middle school program (grades 6 – 8) is individually scheduled and programmed at the six schools, and staffed by school and public librarians, and often a school reading specialist. TAB meets regularly, at lunch or after school, with students offering their opinions and ideas about the latest in young adult literature. Their feedback results not only in school and library purchases, but six annual TAB Picks brochures that list the most talked about books from each school.

There is an annual All-TAB meeting, that has included a trip to the American Library Association's Midwinter Best Books for Young Adults discussion, (and visits to the conference exhibits) or an author/editor/illustrator guest speaker.

Funded jointly by the Arlington Public Library and Arlington Public Schools' Library Media Services, the TAB books are permanently added to each middle school library collection at the end of each school year.

Lizette D. Hannegan

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43. Our school is using the Principal's Brown Bag Lunch Bunch Book Buddy Club this year (as presented by someone at VEMA last year.)

Our principal meets once a month during an extended lunch period (45 minutes) to give each of 15 students the opportunity to discuss a book he or she is reading or has read. Dr. Angelo meets by grade level (15

kids each month each level). Dr. Angelo provides dessert. It has been very popular with our students.

We also participate in the Piedmont Regional Battle of the Books program. We have a list of 20 books each year. Our club meets after school every other week until February, then every week until May. We may have scrimmages between middle schools in January or February, then a warm-up tournament in March where every child from every school's team may participate. In May we have a final meet where each team sends their best five students to participate in written multiple choice questions and oral "in what book ...?" questions.

Janet Miles, Librarian

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44. At Falling Creek Middle School the two librarians sponsor a group of book reviewers. The students have first choice of reading new books and can check out one more book than the rest of the student body. Their obligation is writing reviews and creating a web page of the review. Their reviews are posted on the school web page and are accessible from the electronic catalog.

http://chesterfield.k12.va.us/Schools/Falling_Creek_MS/home.html

Pam Masters
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45. I sponsor a book club for teachers. We meet once a month and usually read adult books in a variety of genre. We pass around the responsibilities of hosting and leading the discussions. We meet in homes, at the library, or in a local coffee shop. Last spring we all read Kira, Kira, the latest Newbery book. It was so helpful to get their feedback on the book. It led us to contact the author, and that was a positive experience.

Andrea Nolley, Waterman

46. At Baker in Henrico Co., we are trying something new. We are having a 5th gr. Book Celebration on Dec. 2. All 5th gr. students are encouraged to read the books on the list. The first of November, we will select a team of 12 students and meet with those students on a regular basis to discuss the books. On Dec. 12, Baker, Varina Elem. and Montrose Elem. will meet at Baker to have the Celebration which is games and activities based on the books. We modeled it after the 4th Gr. Book Celebration some of the West End schools have been doing. We are doing this in lieu of Book Bowl. Hopefully, it will be successful. After the Book Celebration, I'll see if some of the students want to meet periodically to discuss books in general.

Jenny Nelson
Baker Elementary School, Henrico Co.

47. Teen Council:

This club reads our new books in the Library. We have discussions and they make recommendations. At the end of the year, the Teen Council posts a list of recommended books on our website and in the Library.

<http://www.shenandoah.k12.va.us/sjhs/TC%20PICK.html>

Ann Mathena
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Quicksburg, VA 22847

48. We have a "Literary Lunch Bunch" group that meets during lunch, once a month, to discuss various Virginia Young Readers books.

49. We have Literary Lunch-the kids bring their lunches to the library and I read to them. We discuss on a very casual and voluntary basis. Sometimes I ID special vocabulary for them before reading and I always talk using the standard terms-fiction nonfiction, prologues, author's notes etc. We rotate all kids who want to participate through and then have sign up all over again. I sort by lunch period and reading level.

RKeese Walker Upper Elem. CCS

50. I have not had the first meeting, which is scheduled for 11/17. The ball fields are be refurbished at my school, so we are being paid with intramural money. We will meet eight times this year. The public library is having Narnia Night, so we have chosen The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe for our first selection. Eargon will be the second.

Reading classes are doing book discussion. I have had small group and whole class discussions so far.

Sally Demuth
Library Media Specialist
Page Middle School
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51. Thomas Dale has two book groups; one for students and one for faculty. Both meet once a month (separately) to discuss books. The student book club members receive a free book on the condition they read it and then present it to the group. They go to the local feeder elementary school and read to the PK-2 grades several times a year. The faculty one meets to read a common book and discuss it about every month. This started two years ago with the Go Read book THE THINGS THEY CARRIED and has carried over (pardon the pun) to now. We do focus the month of November on the Go Read books, and solicit suggestions for books other months.

Hope this helps. If you need any more details let me know.

Lori Donovan

52. I do a "Chat and Chew" book club during students' lunch periods. Sometimes, I choose the title, sometimes they choose the title. We meet once a week and decide how many pages will be read by the next week. I try to bring a treat every now and then and sometimes we collect money and order pizza. We're reading the GoRead selection now, Charming Billy. Sometimes, depending on money, I am able to

buy the books and let the students keep them. Other times, I have to take the copies back up. All depends on money! We have very few rules. One important one is that we all agree at the onset that anything anyone shares which is personal is kept within our group. So far I think they've kept their word. Our kids (I'm at the alternative high school in Chesterfield) have quite a bit of baggage so often discussions do turn personal. It seems like a comfortable, safe environment for them to reveal that they have this or that in common with a character.
Hope this helps.

Anne Norris
Chesterfield Community HS Library
12400 Branders Bridge Road
Chester, Virginia 23831
Phone: (804) 768-6183 library

53. I work with a reading specialist here at Providence Middle School in Chesterfield Co. and together we do the book club, "Novels & Nibbles" our first book is the new book by Avi and Rachel Vail called Never Mind! A Twin Novel. We do book discussions as well as info on the author. First meeting is today, and we will do a "get to know each other" activity. Students often read small excerpts from book over morning announcements, to spark interest in reading!

54. The 4 titles we will read and discuss at the end of the previous school year. We give a list to each student at orientation. We send order forms out about 1 month in advance for those who wish to purchase a book. R.E.A.D. is handled a bit differently. We planned our first meetings of each group to coincide with Teen Read Week. Below is a brief description of each.

Mother/Daughter - This club has almost tripled in size in 3 years. In fact, we had 40 Mothers and Daughters last evening for a discussion on Grass Angel by Julia Schumacher.

Father/Son - This is a new group this year. Our first meeting was last Friday, October 14. We turned the library into a diamond and played a little baseball after reading Honus and Me by Dan Gutman. The guys really seemed to have fun and said they will come back again.

Pizza and Pages - This is our old Book and Bagel group that met in the mornings. Attendance fell due to other morning activities so we moved it to lunches. Our first meeting will be this Friday, October 21. Attendance looks to be good with 41 students signed up to discuss Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko.

R.E.A.D. @ Midlo Cafe - R.E.A.D. stands for Review, Eat, Advise, and Discuss. This group is based on teacher recommendations. The only requirement is that the students LOVE to read. The goal of this group is to share books with their peers and get them reading. Last year was our first year and we have 22 returning members. To that group we added 47 this morning. These students have helped us with book fairs, Read Across America Day, and Teen Read Week. We are currently working on a project with the public library for our students to lead book discussion groups during the summer for their patrons. This group has been a real surprise. Some of our most active are not the ones in the higher level classes. This is a HIGHLY energetic group that seems to be filling a need for students who don't really fit in anywhere else. We are still evolving.

We also sponsor a chess club called Knight Life in the Morning. There are 2 options - tournament chess or just playing for fun. This is probably our most popular club. This is our 4th year and it is normal to have 50 students here on a Thursday morning.

Hope this helps. We are proud and excited of all the kids and what they are doing here.

55. Swanson Middle School Library, along with Arlington Public Library, sponsors TAB Reading Club for our sixth through eighth grade students. We have 5 sponsors, including myself (librarian), our reading specialist, two language arts teachers, and a public librarian. The public library provides us with the newest good books for the year. Afterwards we get to add the books to the school library. TAB stands for Teen Advisory Board. The students vote for their favorite books of the year, and this is published as a colorful handout called TAB Picks, placed in school and public libraries.

Anna Lee
LMS

56. Several elementary schools in Henrico County participate in a county Book Bowl competition. Students are given a list of books to read, then teams are chosen to represent the school. Coaches work with the students on key points to remember such as title, author, setting, plot, etc. and then the teams compete in a "Battle of the Brains" type quiz competition.

Mary Ellen Jones
Jackson Davis Elem. Library
HCPS
804-527-4626

57. I sponsor a book club at Huguenot High School called the Huguenot Literary Society (formerly called The Falcon Book Club. Last year we met once a month during the lunch period. At least once (because of funding) we were able to read the same book (The Secret Life of Bees). Other times individual members selected books to booktalk. Now we are reading Charming Billy in preparation for the author's visit in December.

Let me know if you need more information.

See you at VEMA.

Linda R. Cobb
School Library Media Specialist
Huguenot High School
7945 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225



58. I have a book club for 6-7 th graders. We are working on The Witch of Blackbird Pond and we have done read some of the book drawn 17th century boats -2 groups of boys on poster board and another group drew clothing of the time there was one more project I can remember. We have done the first chapters, discussed characters, contrasting life styles and discussed what limitations on choices for young people and adults. We will continue reading for the semester. Of course vocabulary was discussed and the history background and geography of Connecticut were talked of - my husband lived there and I have been there I selected this work because I won the books on Freedom from the National Endowment for the Humanities and said when I wrote my essay for application that we would read and discuss the books in the book club. We will also do a story board on the book - sort of like doing a cartoon board containing info about the book---

Leda Ansbro, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Richmond, VA

59. Va. Readers' Choice Powerpoint presentations created by students addressing SOL (under my direction) Breakfast Reading Club (fifth graders read to K, 1, and 2 before school)

Lona Tonelson

Sewells Point Elementary

Norfolk

60. I do Battle of the Books as a book club. I book talk all the books in the Language Arts classes and then ask for interested students to sign up. We meet at lunchtime and I take one of the Battle Books and read it aloud. The kids sustained this from October to February. I had 36 kids sign up and ended up with 15 kids who competed in our school wide Battle of the Books to choose the one team that went to the city.

Christine Dube

61. I have after school activities that go along with some of the Virginia Choice Readers. This gives me an opportunity to hear the children's opinions and discuss the book as well as enrich the theme. For instance, Fame and Glory in Freedom, GA, the theme was friendship so they are signing up with a friend. They will each make a photo frame, have their pictures taken and make a two person treat. While we do that and before we will discuss the book. For Locomotion which is Lonny's poetry journal, we will make our own blank journal by embossing velvet and glueing it to a notebook and adding our embellishments. We can talk about what he put in his journal. etc.

62. At Culpeper Middle School, I am co-sponsor of our school's Battle of the Books program. We participate in the Piedmont Region middle school program with other schools in our area. We meet each Thursday after school from October through May, reading, discussing, and quizzing on a list of 20 titles. We started last Thursday, and have about 17 students so far this year. Denise Kick, an English teacher [and Longwood Library Science student] at our school, and I volunteered to start this many moons ago. This is our 5th year.

Emily Willis, Librarian

Culpeper Middle School

63. I help sponsor two Book Clubs--one each for 4th and 5th graders. We read several books, have literature circles and book related activities. We meet during lunch and have a book themed snack. It has been great fun for all! We had such response that we had to split the clubs by grade level. We try to select great books for the children and usually take at least one, maybe two, from the VYR list. We have been able to read a book that was made into a new movie each year--Holes, Because of Winn Dixie, Ella Enchanted. This year Charlotte's Web is supposed to come out!

Beth Yankey, LMS

Loch Lomond ES

Manassas, VA.

64. I am an elementary librarian in Chesterfield Co. (Under the superior direction of David Rankin, Kit Vaughan, and Debbie Cooke!). Every quarter, my elementary school (fluxuates between 875 and 900 students) holds a book and breakfast meeting for grades 4 and 5 students. The books that we select are generally books chosen for the Battle of the Books competition (selected by a committee of county librarians, teachers, as well as Kit Vaughan). The students may sign up to read the book, then come to a meeting (7:30 to 8:20 AM). We share breakfast (Hardee's biscuits, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, fruit, milk, and juice) then gather into book discussion groups led by both parents, teachers, and librarians. It is a very special time for all involved. We have 86 students signed up for our first meeting on Nov. 4. Hope this helps! At our final meeting last year I simply ached as I knew that this was the last moment I'd share with our fifth graders. Each of their lives and thoughts is so precious. Our grade 5 program this year is totally lit related. We are reading aloud-selected titles and integrating info literacy skills with the discussions. For example, we are currently reading *The Teacher's Funeral* by Richard Peck, and are researching the setting, the Industrial Revolution, etc.

65. At Ridge Elementary (in Henrico) I have several book groups from 2-5th grade. Most meet during the students' lunch time. After booktalking several books, the group decides on a title to read. We set reading goals for each week and discuss what has happened in the portion we read. It is a lot of fun and gets the kids excited about books. I also have a 4th grade book group that culminates in a "Book Celebration" that is coordinated with 2 other neighboring elementary schools. The students read as many books as possible from a set list (representing different genres). We meet during lunch to discuss the books. In the spring the three schools' teams meet and play games based on the books. It is a wonderful day for all involved.

66. In our county we do Battle of the Books. 2 different age level programs. Grades 4&5 and then a middle school group. The 2 groups

each have a reading list and a competition end of the year. Each school does there own thing during the year. Our big 4th & 5th group meets 3 times a year. Our first meeting is crafts that appear in some of the books. To come each student has to have read at least 2 books from the list. In December they need to have read at least 4 books on the list and we do an English game called pass the parcel. The little prize in each layer have something to do with one of the books.. They unwrap they have to tell what book it goes to. Then we play Battle of the Books bingo using the book list. At the March meeting they need to have read 8 books and we do charades using the books. In the process of these meetings we have some book discussions. Last year one of the titles on our list was EVERYTING ON A WAFFLE and the parents used some of the recipes to make snacks for the meeting.

Diane Shofkom.

Fauquier County, MM Pierce Elem.

67. I hope Ann Woleben at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy will respond to you because we started book clubs there about 7 years ago and they were hugely successful. Students read across the genres. They get a hat and earn patches from the different genres and by the time they reach 6-7th grade...their hat is full (it is not a competition). One group did lit circle book for their monthly topic and all ready Hightide in Hawaii....they had a luau during their book club meeting....The students/and or leader choose different genres to read and create projects...There are a ton of kids in it....I believe it starts at 2nd - 7th. I have taken this same concept to Saudi Arabia with me and started a middle school book club there....and will now be starting one in Korea in January starting with adults this time....

Blessings,

Barbara Boyer

Elementary Library Media Specialist

Taejon Christian International School

68. In conjunction with our public library, our school library hosts Cafe Book for 7th and 8th graders. During the summer several rising 9th graders who have participated in Cafe Book the preceding year are part of a committee (which includes school librarians and public librarians) to nominate newly published titles. All nominated titles are read by at least 5 members of the committee and discussed. In August we vote on titles considered outstanding. These 20-25 titles become the basis of Cafe Book. We will have a Dec. meeting to discuss any books published since our August meeting and add additional titles to our list for group reading. The public library lends us 3 copies of each title and each participating school agrees to purchase at least 2 copies of every title. Although students do not all read the same title at the same time, the discussions are often lively. We require 3 readers before discussing a title. Students are introduced to titles through book talks. Students eat lunch in the library and talk about books!

This year the program has been so successful we have 2 sections of each grade level with over 60 students in each section. If you'd like more info, please don't hesitate to contact me. I also sponsor a Teachers As Readers group, which meets once a month after school. We read current children's and YA literature and discuss it.

Michele DeBell Puleo

Library Media Specialist

Chancellor Middle School

6320 Harrison Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22407

540.786.8099

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69. We have just started a Book & Lunch Club here at Axton Elementary.

We are going to meet twice a month with about 15 students during their lunchtime. Students will bring their lunch with them. It is going to begin as a read aloud club. We serve approximately 250 students for grades three through five.

Steve Metzger,

Axton Elementary School

1500 Axton School Road

Axton, Virginia 24054-1991

PHONE 276-650-1193

FAX 276-650-1462

Henry County Schools

70. I sponsor a book club for our staff. We meet once a month. This year we are trying after school book clubs for grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th. I have two teachers who are helping me with this. Our PTA is purchasing the books for the students. Our first meeting is next week.

Debbie Armistead

Media Specialist

Cedar Road Elem.

Chesapeake

71. In preparation for competition with programs sponsored by the local public library: The Battle of the Books (4th and 5th grades) and Mother Goose Mania (3rd grade), I work with small groups of students discussing particular books. The students call these book clubs especially because we have to work them in after lunch, after or before school, or whenever.

Viky Pedigo

Online Resources

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=67

From Theory to Practice Book clubs are opportunities for students to choose what they read, when they read, where they read, how they read, and with whom they read. The key concept here is choice. Students value it.

Another key concept is to keep the book clubs special. You might do this by collecting book sets (two or three copies of the same text) and asking students to make a special request to borrow the books for their book club. At times, you may also invite book clubs to meet at small-group time during reading, which is a special occasion that gives your students a good deal of freedom and responsibility in running their own groups.

In order to carry out book clubs successfully, students must work together to negotiate places and times to meet, along with the pacing and discussion of the books. They take on responsibility for their own literacy learning. They learn to value one another as readers and learners.

Book clubs are designed to be student-centered; however, some teachers want more control over students' reading in book clubs. If you'd prefer a more structured book clubs system, see Raphael, Taffy E., Susan Florio-Ruane, and MariAnne George. 2001. "Book Club Plus: A Conceptual Framework to Organize Literacy Instruction." *Language Arts*. 79.2 (November): 159-168.

Welcome to Kids Who Read!

<http://kwr.co-nect.net/>

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Imagine kids from far and wide gathering together in a virtual book club to discuss literature, ask questions, share ideas, and reflect on the impact a book had on them. Now picture children posing their questions and sharing their ideas with the author of the book they are reading.

Planet Book Club

<http://www.planetbookclub.com/teachers/bookclubsrc.html>

Imagine a classroom full of children having lively, meaningful conversations about books. What would it take to get children so engaged in their reading that they'd be eager to talk about it with their classmates? How could a curriculum be structured to support student-led discussions? And how could reading, writing, speaking, and listening be integrated in such a curriculum?

These are some of the questions that a team of university researchers and classroom teachers set out to explore in 1989. They developed a curriculum centered around small, student-led discussion groups called book clubs. Since that time, they have refined the Book Club program based on their research and experience with many students. Now the materials to create a Book Club curriculum are available to teachers everywhere. These materials include handbooks for elementary and middle school teachers, an instructional videotape, and novel guides with theme-based units for individual trade books.

This web site answers the questions that teachers often ask about the program. It explains the methodology of Book Club, including its integration of reading, writing, student-led book clubs, and whole-class discussions. It offers descriptions and samples of Book Club materials and tells you how to order them.

Planet Book Club also offers interactive components for both students and teachers. Classroom Connection allows students to communicate with their peers in other regions through online discussions of books. The Teacher Forum facilitates the sharing of ideas, questions, and comments among Book Club teachers anywhere in the world.

Online Book Discussion Group

http://rite.ed.qut.edu.au/old_oz-teachernet/projects/book-rap/

A Book Rap is a book discussion conducted via electronic mail. Individuals or groups of students from across the country or around the world can discuss the scheduled books

How to participate Teachers or teacher librarians can nominate a book for discussion by becoming a Book Rap Coordinator. Current titles for discussion are listed on the Book Rap Calendar. Some Book Raps may include special events such as author involvement, illustrators online, access to content area experts and live chat sessions.

Jim Trelease On Reading and Book Clubs

http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/whatsnu_discuss1.html





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Nancy Ann & Tom Wartman

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6. Reading encourages your child's imagination to soar.
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8. For that short time, they will stay clean and quiet. :-)
9. Every teacher they encounter will appreciate it.
10. Your child will thank you!

<http://www.usborneusa.com/read.htm>